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A NEW ALOE FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO.

By G. W. REYNOLDS.

(With Plate II.)

Aloe Hendrickxii Reynolds. Species nova in Sect. *Prolongatae*: *A. Schweinfurthii* Bak. et *A. Sereti* De Wild. affinis, sed omnibus partibus minoribus facile distinguitur.

Planta parva, succulenta, brevissime caulescens, caespitosa.

Folia ca. 16, rosulata, patentia, anguste lanceolato-attenuata, ca. 20 cm. longa, 3·5 cm. lata, immaculata, dentibus marginibus pallidis 3 mm. longis, 5—8 mm. distantibus armata. *Inflorescentia* saepe simplex, 25—30 cm. alta. *Racemus* ca. 10 cm. longus. *Bractae* deltoideae, 14 mm. longae, 3—4 mm. latae, scariosae, 3—5-nervatae. *Pedicelli* 30 mm. longi. *Perigonium* pallide coccineum, cylindraceo-trigonum, 30 mm. longum, circa ovarium 4·5 mm. diam.; *segmenta exteriora* per 10 mm. libera. *Antherae* 2 mm. exsertae. *Stigma* demum 3 mm. exsertae. *Ovarium* 5 mm. longum, 2 mm. diametro. (PLATE II.)

Belgian Congo: Oriental Province, Kibali—Ituri Dist., Mont Aboro, alt. 2,450 met., 2° N., 30° 52' E., coll. F. L. Hendrickx (n. 6401 Bot.), cult. Johannesburg, fl. 12 March 1955, Reynolds 6300 holotype (PRE), isotype (BR).

This distinctive new species was first collected by Mr. Fred L. Hendrickx, Director of the I.N.E.A.C. Station de Mulungu—Tshibinda, which is near Bukavu, in the Kivu Province of the Belgian Congo. I have much pleasure in naming it after Mr. Hendrickx to whom I am greatly indebted for specimens, and also for a number of *Aloe* plants from several other localities in the Congo, and in Ruanda—Urundi.

Mr. Hendrickx discovered this new species in October 1951 on the summit of Mont Aboro which is the highest point of the ridge bordering the western side of the Great Rift in which Lake Albert lies. Mont

Aboro is situated to the north of Kwandruma, at 2° 00' N., 30° 52' E. Plants were found at an altitude of 2,450 metres, growing in small groups in fissures of granite outcrops.

A. Hendrickxii is a small under-shrub of compact low growth, and appears to be nearest allied to *A. Sereti* De Wild, and *A. Schweinfurthii* Bak. The former I have seen near Irumu, and between Fataki and Nioka, while I have studied *A. Schweinfurthii* near Aba and elsewhere along the Sudan—Congo border, including the type locality Jebel Bangeze.

From both of these allies *A. Hendrickxii* differs in being a much smaller plant with smaller leaves and rosettes, and in having a much lower, mostly simple inflorescence averaging only 25—30 cm. in height. In all flowers I have seen, the perianth segment apices were markedly recurved to revolute.

The description is based on plants which flowered in Johannesburg in March 1954 and March 1955.

DESCRIPTION. A small shrub of low compact growth.

Stem none or very short, with numerous off-shoots forming small dense groups.

Leaves about 16, rosulate, narrowly lanceolate-attenuate, spreading, slightly recurved near apex, basally amplexicaul, 20 cm. long, 3.5 cm. broad; *upper surface* dull green with a greyish bloom, without spots and markings, slightly concave low down, a little channelled upwards; *lower surface* greyer-green than upper surface, rounded, mostly without spots or lines but sometimes with a few obscure dull-greyish elongated spots; *margins* armed with firm greenish-white teeth in lower half of leaf, the teeth brownish-tipped in upper half of leaf and averaging 3 mm. long, 5—8 mm. distant. *Sap* dries yellow.

Inflorescence mostly simple, 25—30 cm. tall, sometimes with 1—2 short branchlets.

Peduncle flattened and 6 mm. broad at base, about 4 mm. thick at the middle, clothed with 4—6 sterile-bracts, the lowest up to 18 mm. long, 5 mm. broad, thin, dry, 5—7-nerved, smaller upwards.

Raceme cylindric-conic, averaging 10 cm. long, subdensely flowered, unicoloured dull-scarlet, the apex a small tuft of wilted bracts, youngest buds suberect and greyish-tipped, open flowers subpendulous.

Bracts long-deltoid, lowest 14 mm. long, 3—4 mm. broad, subscarious, 5—7-nerved.

Pedicels lowest 13 mm. long, lengthening in the fruit.

Perianth dull-scarlet, 30 mm. long, cylindric, $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diam. across the ovary, slightly decurved, the mouth wide open; *outer segments* free for 10 mm., obscurely 3-nerved, thinner at the edges, the apices subacute

and much recurved to revolute; *inner segments* free but dorsally adnate to the outer for two-thirds their length, longer and broader than the outer, with thin white edges and a scarlet keel, distinctly brown-nerved on inside near apex, the apices markedly recurved to revolute.

Filaments pale lemon, filiform-flattened, the 3 inner narrower and lengthening before the 3 outer with their *anthers* in turn exerted 2—3 mm.

Stigma at length exerted 3 mm.

Ovary pale yellow-green, 5 mm. long, 2 mm. diam.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I am indebted to the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for a travelling grant which enabled me to investigate the Aloes of the eastern portion of the Belgian Congo in June—July 1954.



Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

PLATE II. *Aloe Hendrickii* Keynolds.

Figs. 1, 2.—Plants collected by Mr. Fred L. Hendrickx on Mont Aboro, Kibali—Ihuri District, Belgian Congo, cult. Johannes-burg, fl. 12 March 1955. Height 40 cm.

Fig. 3.—Flowers 1/1 from bud to post-pollination stage.